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DEPT FOR P, EAP, CA, DRL, EAP/MTS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/09/2019
TAGS: [PREL](#) [CVIS](#) [KISL](#) [ID](#)
SUBJECT: CONTAINING DAMAGE FROM THE VISA CASE OF
PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER SJAFRIE SJAMSOEDDIN

REF: A. A) JAKARTA 1785
[1](#)B. B) YUN-HUME EMAIL 11/07/09

Classified By: Ambassador Cameron R. Hume for reasons 1.4 (b+d).

[1](#)1. (S) On November 9, Ambassador informed Department of Foreign Affairs Director General for America and Europe Ambassador Retno Marsudi that Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin would be found ineligible for a U.S. visa. The Ambassador said the Embassy considers the case closed because Sjamsoeddin withdrew his application after realizing he would not receive a visa to accompany President Yudhoyono to Pittsburgh for the G-20 meeting in September. If Sjamsoeddin were to submit a new application, the Ambassador said he would likely be found ineligible under a provision that requires Congressional notification and for which there is no waiver.

[1](#)2. (S) Retno challenged the decision, stating that Indonesia,s Board of Inquiry had not reached a conclusion on the allegations against Sjamsoeddin. After the Ambassador further explained the decision, Retno replied that it would be necessary to "calculate the impact" of this rejection and contain the damage, so that it would not hinder progress in other areas of the relationship. "Sjamsoeddin is the President,s man," she stated, emphasizing President Yudhoyono,s confidence in him and his determination to appoint him as State Secretary (Chief of Staff). Retno asked if Foreign Minister Natalegawa should raise the issue with Secretary Clinton in Singapore later this week, and whether President Yudhoyono might prevail upon President Obama to intervene in the case. The Ambassador recommended against raising the case at the highest levels, adding that he would request Washington officials to refrain from any public comment on the case.

HUME